

## **Legislative Bulletin.....March 3, 2010**

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### **H.Res. 1096 - Encouraging individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census (*Reyes, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1096 resolves that Congress recognizes:

- “Encourages individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010;
- “Urges State, local, county, and tribal governments, as well as other organizations to emphasize the importance of the 2010 Census and actively encourages all individuals to participate; and
- “Supports the designation of Census Awareness Month.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “The Constitution requires an actual enumeration of the population every 10 years;
- “Census data ensure fair Federal, State, and local representation in the United States and help determine the composition of voting districts at each level;
- “The data obtained from the census are protected under United States privacy laws, cannot be disclosed for 72 years, or used against any person by any Government agency or court;
- “It is estimated that over 16,000,000 people were not counted in the 2000 Census resulting in a decreased share of Federal funding for those undercounted communities; and

- “The month of March 2010 would be an appropriate month to designate as Census Awareness Month.”

**Additional Information:** The census question form can be found [here](#).

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1096 was introduced on February 23, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1079 - Congratulating the New Orleans Saints (Cao, R-LA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1079 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the New Orleans Saints, the team's coaches and players, and the loyal members of the ‘Who Dat’ Nation on winning Super Bowl XLIV; and
- “Recognizes—
  - “The New Orleans Saints as the soul of New Orleans; and
  - “The significant contributions made by the team in the recovery efforts of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast Region.”

The resolution includes a number of findings, including:

- “On February 7, 2010, the New Orleans Saints defeated the Indianapolis Colts by a score of 31 to 17 to win the National Football League (NFL) Championship;

- “The Saints repeatedly have been called a beacon of hope for the city of New Orleans and a catalyst for recovery throughout Louisiana and the Gulf Coast Region;
- “ESPN's Wright Thompson in his article 'Saints the Soul of America's City' captured the essence and importance of the Saints to the city of New Orleans and noted the resilience of this year's team by stating, 'It's perfect, isn't it? The expansion team whose first roster was created from players unwanted by other teams has finally found success with a similar group.'; and
- “The 2009 Saints are evidence of what can be accomplished when self is set aside and a teamwork mentality is adopted by all of the players.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1079 was introduced on February 9, 2010, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1082 - Supporting the goals and ideals of the fourth annual America Saves Week (*Johnson, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1082 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the importance of savings to financial security;
- “Supports the goals and ideals of ‘America Saves Week’; and
- “Requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, non-profit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe America Saves Week with

appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing the savings rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “Financial security is one of the most important issues for most Americans, whether it involves saving for a college education, an unforeseen emergency, a house, or for retirement;
- “Personal savings as a percentage of disposable income has risen from 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- “America Saves, managed by the Consumer Federation of America, was established nine years ago as an annual nationwide campaign that encourages consumers, especially those in lower-income households, to increase their financial literacy, enroll as American Savers, and establish a personal savings goal in an effort to build personal wealth and enhance financial security;
- “Encouraging automatic and habitual savings is a primary focus for this year's America Saves Week, February 21, 2010, through February 28, 2010, and that focus is reflected in the work of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, America Saves, and American Savings Education Council's Choose to Save Campaign.”

### ***Democrat Inconsistency Alert!***

**Debt Expansion:** As Democrats encouraging hard working Americans to save more of their income they continue to add to the national debt. Democrats should have thought of the importance of saving before they passed the largest single spending bill of all-time the “stimulus.” **The increase to the national debt over just the past three years is larger than the total amount of debt accumulated by the federal government from 1789 to 1985.** To accommodate this additional debt burden, House Democrats recently increased the debt limit to [\\$14,294,000,000,000](#). Congress may want to take some free advice regarding spending and saving from [this guy](#).

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1082 was introduced on February 22, 2010, and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.R. 2554 – National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2009 (*Scott, D-GA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the legislation.

**Summary:** H.R. 2554 reestablishes the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (NARAB) as a nonprofit corporation that may be dissolved by an act of Congress, which may not be an agent or instrument of the U.S. government. The purpose of the Association is to prescribe licensing qualification condition requirements on a multi-state basis.

Any licensed insurance producer may be eligible to become a member of the Association, so long as their license is not currently, or has not been, suspended or revoked, without being reinstated within the last three years. The Association may establish other reasonable membership criteria, as well as create and amend necessary bylaws, and borrow money.

A national criminal background check through the Attorney General, is required for membership, and this legislation allows a fee to be charged to cover the background check. The Association has the right to deny membership based on results of the background check. The denied applicant will be able to obtain a copy of the background check and will be able to challenge the accuracy and completeness of the information.

The NARAB will be required to receive and when appropriate investigate complaints from consumers and state insurance regulators regarding its Members. They are also required to maintain a toll-free number for reporting these complaints.

The Association's Board of Directors shall consist of 11 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. An annual report is required to be submitted to the President and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

The Association may work with state insurance regulators to establish a central clearinghouse as well as a database of regulatory information concerning the activities of

insurance producers. The Association will fall under jurisdiction of the U.S. district courts.

**Additional Information:** Similar legislation was sponsored by Rep. Scott in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress as H.R. 5611, and passed the House on 9/17/2008, by voice vote.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2554 was introduced on May 21, 2009 and was referred to the House Financial Services Committee which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO report is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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### **H.Con.Res. 239 - Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (*Davis, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 239 authorizes Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center to be used for a ceremony on March 10, 2010, to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

**Additional Information:** [Women Airforce Service Pilots](#) (WASP) were the first women in history to fly American military aircraft.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 239 was introduced on February 24, 2010, and referred to the House Administration Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Con.Res. 236 - Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust (*Klein, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 236 authorizes the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on April 15, 2010 for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 236 was introduced on February 22, 2010, and referred to the House Administration Committee, which took no public action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee report citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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